Where's the Tolerance for Them?

Gay activists say the people in this picture don't exist. But they do. They are among thousands who have struggled free from homosexuality because of the divine power of God's love.

In our community this weekend are protestors who contend that it is an act of "spiritual violence" to believe that people can free themselves from unwanted homosexuality. But the Spirit of God is not violent. The Spirit heals. And so ex-gays will continue to speak out about the healing they have experienced in Christ. To be sure, some will falter along the path.

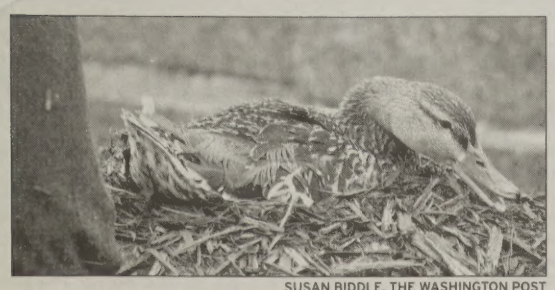
To the protestors, we understand your desire to be heard. We understand the frustration and pain many of you have experienced, perhaps even by people who call themselves Christians. But we must tell you, in the true love of Christianity, that your efforts, which are directed toward Focus on the Family® and Dr. James Dobson, are misguided. By speaking the truth, Dr. Dobson does not promote hatred of homosexuals. But he is making every effort to preserve the family as God intended it to be — not as you wish to redefine it.

"Tolerance" is a popular term among gay activists. But we must ask: where is your tolerance for those pictured above, and for others who hold the firm conviction, confirmed by Scripture, that homosexuality is not what God intends for people? Will you offer to others the same tolerance that you demand for yourselves?

State Rep. Dave Schultheis, Colorado Springs
State Rep. Mark Cloer, Colorado Springs
State Rep. Bill Cadman, Colorado Springs
State Sen. Doug Lamborn, Colorado Springs
State Sen. Ed Jones, Colorado Springs
State Rep. Ted Harvey, Douglas County
State Rep. Kevin Lundberg, Weld County
State Rep. Greg Brophy, Wray CO.
State Rep. Jim Welker, Larimer County
State Rep. Keith King, Colorado Springs
State Sen. Minority Leader Mark Hillman
Will Perkins
Phil Lewis, general manager, KGFT
Krishna Ajjarapu, Ph.D.
David Noebel, Summit Ministries
Tom Pedigo, American Family Association of Colorado
Former U.S. Congressman Bob Schaffer
Mary Harold, President, Colorado for Family Values
Dr. Bob Grant, 100.7 KGFT
Chuck Broerman, Former Vice Chairman, Colorado Republican Party
George Culpepper, Vice Chairman, El Paso County Republican Party
Cindy Murphy
Jeff Crank
Amy Lathen
Amy Stephens
Mr. & Mrs. Conrad Gutierrez
Peggy Littleton, Colorado State Board of Education

NATION

Treasury Department's nest eggs start hatching



SUSAN BIDDLE, THE WASHINGTON POST

A brown mallard perches Saturday atop her hatching eggs outside the Treasury Department in Washington. Officials said the new family, under Secret Service guard since early April, will be set free today.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON • Break out the cigars. The Treasury ducklings are hatching.

The brown mallard, which became a Washington tourist attraction just a block from the White House, began hatching her ducklings Saturday afternoon.

For curious tourists around her enclosure, there wasn't much to see, because the hatching was happening underneath her.

"The hen is sitting on the baby ducklings to incubate them, because they are born wet and cold," Treasury Department spokesman Taylor Griffin said.

The Secret Service uniformed division, which normally guards the president and other dignitaries, has been protecting the duck and her nest since she laid her eggs in early April, keeping the mother duck safe from throngs of tourists who stopped to snap pictures.

They installed metal guardrails around the nest in a mulch pile around a tree at the main entrance to the Treasury Department, next door to the White House. They extended the protected area as the watching crowds grew bigger.

The duck was given various nicknames by Treasury employees, from "Quacks Reform" to "T-Bill" and "Duck Cheney."

Treasury officials said that after the duck and ducklings get a good night's rest, they will be taken to one of the many urban parks in the Washington area and set free today.

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Triplets went unnamed for days before battle to prove who would be best parent

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Danielle Bimber, surrogate mother of triplet boys, braids daughter Julia's hair, while one of the triplets, Micah, sits on her lap in their Corry, Pa., home. Bimber and her husband won full custody of the boys in January, 14 months after their birth.

Surrogate mom takes on biological dad for custody

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CORRY, Pa.

For the first week of their lives, the triplets were known only as A, B and C.

Danielle Bimber had no names for the boys because she never intended to be their mother. Leaving the hospital without them, her job seemingly done, the surrogate mom grew uneasy.

Where was the couple who had hired her? When would they come to the hospital to take the newborns home? Why had they stopped visiting after the first day?

After several sleepless nights, and with the hospital preparing to put the children in foster care, Danielle obtained permission to take the boys home, to join her two sons, ages 9 and 7, from a previous marriage, and her 4-year-old daughter with Doug, a self-employed appliance repairman.

Seven days after they were born, A, B and C became Matthew, Mark and Micah.

The Bimbers would soon become engaged in a bitter battle with the triplets' biological father. The 63-year-old math professor said complicated paperwork was partly to blame for his early absence. He said the Bimbers couldn't provide for the kids as well as he could. At his age, he said, he wanted to "leave something behind when I die."

Fourteen months would elapse before the dispute was settled, leaving one couple disappointed and the other exhausted.

Even today, legal and financial challenges remain in a case that touched on issues of money and class, and the lifestyle the children could expect from two different families of vastly different means.

BECOMING A SURROGATE

Danielle Bimber, 30, has lived in this former railroad town about 30 miles southeast of Erie all her life. After graduating from high school in 1992 and attending one year of college, she held minimum-wage jobs at a bank, a gas station and a fitness center.

But she says the job she's most cut out for is being a mom.

Danielle says she decided to become a surrogate mother when a friend had problems getting pregnant. After all, her first three pregnancies and deliveries were relatively easy.

She didn't do it for the money, she says, though the $24,000 surrogacy fee was sure to come in handy. Four months before the delivery, Danielle filed for bankruptcy, burdened by debt from her first marriage. On their 2003 tax return, the Bimbers would report income of only $11,400, well below the poverty line for a family of five.

"We were going to take the money that we got and get a camper, and (Danielle) wanted to take a cruise," Doug said. "That's all down the drain because we've used that money for legal fees."

Danielle arranged to become a surrogate through Surrogate Mothers Inc., of Monrovia, Ind., an agency she found on the Internet.

The firm connected Danielle with an egg donor from Texas and the intended parents: James Flynn, now the head of Cleveland State University's Department of Operations Management and Business Statistics, and Eileen Donich, a 60-year-old retired dentist and Flynn's girlfriend.

Danielle says the couple didn't seem to be bothered by the prospect of triplets. The news didn't elicit much reaction of any kind.

BIRTH BROUGHT CONCERNS

Flynn and Donich have strongly defended their actions in the days after the birth — and before.

The couple met in 1996. Flynn never had kids; Donich was a policeman's widow and mother of two grown children. They did not marry, according to court documents, because they had come to rely on the pension she received.

Flynn said he took a higher-paying job that he didn't want, and built a 6,000-square-foot home in the affluent Ohio community of Kirtland to accommodate his new family.

In court testimony, the couple said paperwork, insurance problems and preparations for the newborns had delayed their return to the hospital.

Donich said she contacted the hospital every day.

"I asked every single time, 'Well, if we don't come today and we come tomorrow, is that all right? Is that a problem?'" Donich would testify.

Flynn said they were waiting to gain physical custody of the triplets before naming them.

Hospital personnel sided with the Bimbers. They said Flynn and Donich inquired about insurance coverage and equipment they might need but not about the newborns, and didn't seem committed to taking the steps to take them home.

COURT WEIGHS FAMILIES

Like most states, Pennsylvania has no surrogacy law. The triplets' fate would be in the hands of a judge.

In testimony, Flynn characterized Corry as an economically depressed city with a poor school system, and described the Bimbers' home as small and dirty. He said the Bimbers let their kids watch too much TV, questioned the emphasis they put on education and accused them of making poor medical decisions.

By comparison, Flynn said he earned $136,000 a year, lived in an affluent community and has a biological connection to the children.

"We can do a better job in taking care of them. We can spend more time with them . . . than Danielle can do," he said. "We can do a better job educating them and do a better job in taking care of their medical needs."

County Judge Shad Connelly gave the Bimbers temporary custody of the children in May 2004 after invalidating the surrogacy contract. He said it failed to name a legal mother for the triplets.

Then, in January, the judge came down firmly on the side of Danielle Bimber, giving her permanent custody while saying she may have been careless with her finances.

Connelly declared Danielle "the better caretaker by far."

Flynn had not impressed the judge, who ordered Flynn to pay $1,750 a month for child support and gave him weekend visitation rights; the children were given his last name.

Flynn, in February, notified the court that he intends to appeal.